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Mr. Joshua Gale
From Mrs. Mary Hall

General Brooks's Eulogy.

BRITISH MUSEUM

AN

Eulogy,

ON

GENERAL WASHINGTON;

DELIVERED BEFORE THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF MEDFORD,

AGREEABLY TO THEIR VOTE, AND AT THE REQUEST OF THEIR COMMITTEE,

ON

The 13th of January, 1800.

BY JOHN BROOKS, A.M. M.M.S. & A.A.S.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

An Eulogy.

SUSPENDING the ordinary employments of life, we, my reſpected friends, have entered this temple, to pay our laſt, ſad tribute of reſpect to the memory of one, who was "*the firſt in war, the firſt in peace, and the firſt in the hearts of his countrymen.*" And how ſuitable is it, that we *here* unite to mingle our griefs, and aſſociate our ſolemn obſequies, with religious rites! We thus declare to the world our veneration of Wiſdom, and appeal to Heaven for the ſincerity of the applauſe we beſtow on Virtue.

THE interjunction of public eulogies with funeral ſolemnities, is a practice neither novel, nor unuſeful. Emanating from the ſtrength and poignance of grief for departed merit, it is the expreſſion of an affection of the human heart, which may be beneficially indulged; and may the preſent occaſion, not only atteſt our ſenſe of the irreparable loſs we mourn, but lead us, individually, to ſuch reflections as ſhall tend to fortify our virtues, and mend the heart.

VAIN would be the attempts of the moſt accompliſhed eulogiſt, to do juſtice to a character ſo tranſcendently illuſtrious, as that of our late dear, and much-loved WASHINGTON. What language, indeed,

deed, can portray his worth? What powers of utterance are adequate to the delineation of an image correſponding to the life? A nation in cypreſs and in tears is an expreſſive panegyrick; but his life and actions will ultimately prove his moſt faithful eulogium.

Since, then, the man, who was the pride of his country, and the boaſt of human-kind, tranſcends our praiſe, let us, as a teſtimony of our profound reſpect for his memory, recur to his life and actions. In executing this pleaſing, painful taſk, the limits of the preſent performance will reſtrain us to a brief ſelection of ſuch particulars, as are moſt prominent and intereſting.

The propitious event of the birth of George Washington happened in Virginia, on the twenty-ſecond day of February, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and thirty-two. And ſo long as Wiſdom ſhall be revered, Talents command reſpect, or Virtue inſpire eſteem, ſo long will the American breaſt exult, that he was a native of this weſtern world.

There being, at the proper time for his inſtruction, no public ſeminary of celebrity in that part of the country, his father committed the education of his ſon to the direction of private inſtructors.—Without documents correctly to aſcertain the routine of his early education, we preſume it to have been ſuch, as ſubſtantially and efficaciouſly to facilitate the evolution of thoſe talents and principles, upon which the ſuperſtructure of his exalted fame

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was afterward erected. His animal powers aided in the execution. The ſon of a planter, and accuſtomed, from his childhood, to ſuch occaſional employments and exerciſes, as to enſure health and muſcular ſtrength, his perſon was remarkably robuſt and athletic. Animal powers leſs firm and elaſtic, might, perhaps, have been inſufficient to ſuſtain the operations of ſo great a mind, always comprehenſive in its views, inceſſant in its efforts, and teeming with reſources. Fitted thus, equally for executing, as for projecting enterpriſes, we ſee him in youth indicating thoſe traits of ſuperiority, which, in after life, became ſo ſtriking and characteriſtic.

HENCE we may account for his almoſt premature advancement to offices of truſt and reſponſibility. In the year 1753, at the age of twenty-one years, and already a major, and adjutant-general in the provincial ſervice, he was deputed, by the governor of Virginia, to hold a treaty with various nations of weſtern Indians; and was, at the ſame time, honoured with a miſſion to the commander in chief of the French on the Ohio, remonſtrating againſt the inroads they were making on the territory of Virginia, in violation of ſubſiſting treaties between the kings of England and France. The ſucceſsful termination of this perilous and complicated embaſſy, through immenſe tracts of inhoſpitable deſarts, merited, and obtained, the thanks of his country. His journal of this miſſion, publiſhed ſoon after its termination, appears to have been the firſt public eſſay of his pen, which, as is obſerved by his biographer,

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"did great credit to his induſtry, attention, and judgment."

The aggreſſions of the French were ſoon more manifeſt and daring; and he was appointed Colonel of a Regiment raiſed in Virginia; in which rank he continued to command the troops, from his colony, until the arrival of General Braddock, from England, in the year 1755. He then reſigned his command, and acted as Aid de Camp to that unfortunate General. A detail of his defeat will not be expected.—But, from the hiſtory of that diſaſtrous day, a ſtrong preſumption ariſes, that had not the haughty indocility of that European chief rendered him deaf to the counſels of his young American Aid, he would have eſcaped the horrors and infamy of a defeat. All the Britiſh officers and ſoldiers, who ſurvived the carnage of that fatal day, were indebted for their lives to the conduct, reſolution, and valour of Colonel Washington, and a few of his faithful American friends.

From this period, reſuming the command of the provincials, he continued to bear a principal part in the military arrangements and operations of the war, and diſplayed, on every ſuitable occaſion, perſevering induſtry, perſonal courage, and martial ſkill.

In the year 1759, he reſigned his command of the troops, and ſoon became a member of the legiſlature of his native colony; and was as aſſiduous to ſerve his country in her councils, as he had been active to defend her in the field.

About this time he formed a conjugal connexion with

with the amiable and accompliſhed woman, now widowed and diſconſolate by his death.

A CULTIVATION of the arts of peace, however conducive and eſſential to the happineſs of ſocial life, is denied that applauſe from the world, which it ſo eagerly laviſhes on the ſtateſman and the ſoldier. For ſeveral years ſucceeding the peace of 1763, Colonel WASHINGTON, the farmer of Mount Vernon, paid particular attention to the cultivation of his eſtates, and the diffuſion of agricultural improvements among the planters of Virginia. But though agriculture was receiving all the aids of his genius and taſte, and the favourite ſeat of his reſidence was made to flouriſh like an Eden, we hear little of the future Deliverer of his Country, till the portentous lowering in the eaſtern hemiſphere announced a ſpeedy and tremendous irruption.

IN the firſt Congreſs aſſembled at Philadelphia, to avert, or prepare for the impending ſtorm, we find, on the liſt of thoſe patriots and worthies, the name of WASHINGTON. But when the black tempeſt of civil war had burſt upon our country, the eyes of the Great Council of the Colonies, as well as of all thoſe who knew his merits in the preceding war, were fixed on him, as General and Commander in chief of the army.

THE unanimous ſuffrage of that auguſt body, at once, gave him that elevated, but dangerous appointment, encouraged his acceptance of it, and ſerved as a preſage to that union of councils and of force, ſo requiſite for final and triumphant ſucceſs.

After the wanton conflagration and capture of our ſiſter Charleſtown, and the untimely death of the hopeful Warren, the animating preſence of a Washington, who was received by our army at Cambridge, in July, 1775, elevated the drooping ſpirits of the troops, then forming the tardy blockade of Boſton. Without diſcipline, badly armed, and deſtitute of artillery, and every deſcription of warlike ſtores, no operations againſt the enemy could be warrantably undertaken, until the ſpring of the year 1776. In conſequence of the approaches, which better ſupplies had enabled the army to make againſt the enemy, General Washington, then, compelled them to abandon our capital.

This year, however, was marked by a rapid ſucceſſion of trying and agonizing events. The loſs of Long-Iſland, of the city and iſland of New-York, including fort Waſhington and its garriſon; the loſs of fort Lee, and the abandonment of the whole of the ſtate of New-Jerſey; our misfortunes in, and the ultimate loſs of, Canada, and of the principal part of the army that invaded it; the defeat and capture of our fleet on Lake Champlain; the occurrence of two diſtreſſing and fatal epidemics, reducing and enfeebling the army; to which may be ſuperadded, the capture of General Lee; form only a part of the diſmal and dejecting ſeries.

Thoſe of you, my friends, who were actors on the ſtage at that eventful period, will recollect the gloom with which the public mind was overſpread and ſaddened, the languor of the public pulſe, and

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that oppreſſive anxiety which the reiterated calamities of the year had induced.

But the arm of Washington, by a ſingle bold and daring effort, reſuſcitated the hopes of a deſponding people. The ſurprize and capture of the Heſſians at Trenton flew, with electric ſpeed, through the continent, thrilled through the hearts, and renovated the courage of dejected millions.

From this period, till the year 1781, the war was continued with various ſucceſs; and Washington, through all its viciſſitudes, maintained a virtuous empire over the affections of his countrymen.

It was within the compaſs of this period, however, that envy, that cankerworm of integrity and republicaniſm, was meditating means to detach the affections of the people, and the confidence of the ſeveral governments of the country, from their beloved Chief, to pluck the laurel from his brow, and rob him of his honeſt, his hard-earned fame. But, happily for America, for Liberty, and for Humanity, the machinations of diſappointed ambition were diſconcerted, and the friend of the people found the people to be his friends.

During this interval, an intereſting occurrence ſupervened, which, while it exerciſed his feelings as a man, evinced that correctneſs of judgment, that unſhaken ſteadineſs of purpoſe, and inflexible regard to his public duty, which exalted and characterized the man, and which, with ſo much juſtice, commanded the unlimited confidence of his country. At the defection of Arnold, every American ſhud-

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dered, and Virtue itſelf ſtood appalled. When the captivity of the Britiſh agent, for concerting that inſidious treaſon, was known in their camp, every engine of inſinuation, and terror, was employed, to reſcue from impending fate, that, hitherto, favourite of fortune, and of the Britiſh army. But General Washington, in whom were combined the fine poliſh of Attic refinement, with the ſteraneſs of Spartan virtue, reſiſted their ſolicitations with addreſs, and their menaces with firmneſs. And the faithful guardian of his country's ſafety and honour, obeying the dictates of a ſevere, but impoſing policy, aſſigned the hapleſs Andre to the deſtiny of a ſpy.

In the year 1781, the deciſive blow was given to the Britiſh military operations in the United States. The capture of lord Cornwallis, and his army, terminated the war. As this ſplendid event added freſh luſtre to his glory, his praiſes, enlivening every tongue, were reſounded from one extreme of an extenſive empire of Liberty to the other, and he was ſaluted as the *Saviour of his country*.

Such is the ſtructure, and the imbecility of the human mind, that praiſe is extremely prone to deſtroy its equilibrium. But the Ariſtides, as well as the Fabius of the age, neither deſpondent in adverſity, nor elated with ſucceſs, preſerved a philoſophical equanimity amid the moſt copious effuſions of encomium and panegyrick: and when a Cæſar would have aſſumed the purple, or a Cromwell uſurped the protectorſhip, *He* reſigned, with eagerneſs, the proud inſignia of command, and converted the ſplendid

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weapons of war, into the humble implements of the arts of peace.

To moſt men in public life, at the cloſe of the revolutionary war, it was well known that General WASHINGTON felt little confidence in the efficiency or durability of the exiſting form of government. On this point, his circular letter to the ſeveral ſtates indicated his diffidence. A ſhort lapſe of time verified his apprehenſions. In leſs than three years the confederation was annihilated. The moment was awful and perilous. But the evils of anarchy were repreſſed by the joint force of ſentiment and habit; and a government of energy was demanded from New-Hampſhire to Georgia. A convention of patriots, and ſages, in which General WASHINGTON preſided, was aſſembled; and that ſyſtem of government, which was adminiſtered by him for eight ſucceſſive years, with ſo much dignity and effect, was the reſult of their united labours. The manner in which he fulfilled the high duties of the preſidency of the United States, is known to this aſſembly.

As chief of the army, during the late war, General WASHINGTON became perſonally known to a vaſt proportion of the people of theſe States; and his name is regiſtered in the hearts of all. But as Chief Magiſtrate of the Nation, being the organ of intercourſe with foreign nations, his celebrity became univerſal; and the name of WASHINGTON is pronounced with pleaſure, and with pride, by the people of every civilized nation on earth.

SUCH was the Man, who triumphantly led your armies

armies in war, and preſided in your councils in peace.

To fortune, every man, who, ſurmounting uncommon obſtacles, ſucceeds in enterpriſes of magnitude and hazard, is, uſually, more or leſs indebted. But the verity of this poſition we do not ſuffer to detract from the merit of our departed Sage. Of what uſe are all the mines of Mexico and Peru, while latent and unexplored? Or what avail the greateſt human powers, unleſs they are preſented with objects ſuitable to their exerciſe? Utility alone conſummates and ſtamps their value.

"Full many a flower is born to bluſh unſeen,
And *waſte* its ſweetneſs on the deſert air."

But opportunity, that genial ſunbeam, which opens and expands the bud of every human faculty and virtue, gave ample ſcope for the developement of his mighty energies, and for the expanſion and exerciſe of his manly virtues. And in comparing the actual ſituation of our country, its dangers, its wants, and its ultimate deſtination to independence, with the talents, the reſources, and virtues of General Washington, we are ſtruck with admiration and wonder at the preciſe and happy adaptation of one to the other.

To the ſketches of his life, already ſo imperfectly given, his late acceptance of the command of the army muſt be ſuperadded. At a time, when nature was ſoliciting repoſe, and retirement was, more than ever, an object of his ardent wiſhes, he was unexpectedly preſented with his appointment. The mo-

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ment was deemed critical and important: he felt its force; and again, ſacrificing every private conſideration, yielded to the wiſhes of an anxious public; rejecting on this, as on every ſimilar occaſion, from the commencement of the revolution, every idea of pecuniary emolument for his ſervice.

THE ſequel of his life was in uniſon with the paſt. IN the laſt ſolemn ſcene, when the wealth and the honours of the world were receding from his view, he ſtill acted like himſelf—he ſtill was WASHINGTON. When the ſpeedy termination of his life was announced to him, by his friend and phyſician, with dignified compoſure, he awaited and welcomed the approach of death. Thus was our much-loved friend, the FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY, *great in war, great in peace, great in life, and great in the moment of his diſſolution.*

AND are the eyes of WASHINGTON cloſed in death? Has he, who ſo lately was the pride of arms, who was himſelf a hoſt, fallen a prey to the fell ravager of our race? The aching heart reluctates, while it is compelled to realize the tale of woe. But, mute be every murmur—checked be every tear. What though his once manly, graceful form be now mingling with its native duſt, yet WASHINGTON ſtill lives immortal. Yes: He lives in his matchleſs example—He lives in thoſe leſſons of wiſdom which flowed from his pen—He lives in our hearts, and in the hearts of a grateful country—He lives, tranſporting thought! reſplendent with glory, in the realms of ceaſeleſs day.

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